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South Carolina Politics

An Aggressive Leader at the Helm.

A Review of the Career of Hon. John G. Capers, the Leader of the Republican forces in the Sea Island State—A Friend and Champion of President Roosevelt—Local Troubles Amount to Little.

A photograph appears in this issue of the Hon. John G. Capers, United States District Attorney and Republican National Committeeman for the State of South Carolina. He was originally appointed District Attorney by the lamented President McKinley, and after serving several months of that recess appointment, his name was sent to the Senate by President Roosevelt, and he was confirmed by that body in December, 1901. Upon the death of Doctor E. A. Webster, Mr. Capers, then U. S. District Attorney, and located at Charleston, S. C., was appointed a member of the Republican National Committee for the State of South Carolina, by Senator Hanna, in the exercise of the National Chairman's right to make such ad interim appointments, in case of death or resignation. In the absence of a Republican member of Congress from South Carolina, on either side of the Capitol Mr. Capers, as Republican National Committeeman, and, also, with the weight and dignity of his office of District Attorney, has had the ear and the confidence of President Roosevelt, Postmaster-General Payne, and others who are high in authority.

Mr. Capers is in his thirty-eighth year, and was born and raised in South Carolina, where, indeed, his people have been reared since before the Revolution. His grandfather before him was a Methodist Bishop, and his father is, at present, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, and on his mother's side, he is nearly related to General Francis Marion. All of the male members of his family are Democrats, and have been for many years. Mr. Capers, himself, was at first a Democrat, and was one of the Superintendents of Education in South Carolina after his college days, and for some time the editor of an independent daily paper, published at Columbia, the capital of the State. He was for seven years one of the U. S. Attorneys in the Department of Justice, at Washington, under appointment of President Cleveland; but when Mr. Bryan was nominated for President, in 1896, Mr. Capers, along with a great many gold Democrats, went boldly and aggressively into the McKinley-Hobart campaign. Mr. Capers devoted several weeks to campaigning for the

Men of the Hour.



MR. J. H. LEWIS,
Merchant Tailor, Boston, Mass.

McKinley-Hobart ticket, and four years later, rendered similar, but more aggressive service in the campaign for the McKinley-Roosevelt ticket in Maryland and West Virginia. Senator Scott, of West Virginia who was Chairman of the National Speakers' Bureau, wrote him an earnest and special letter commending him for his splendid service during the campaign. After the election of McKinley and Roosevelt, Mr. Capers had thus become in that and in the previous campaign, thoroughly identified with the Republican party, and it was agreed that he should be appointed District Attorney of his native State. Mr. Capers had been in Washington and away from the State for seven years, and when he left South Carolina to accept an appointment, he was a gold Democrat, he returned, however, a full-fledged Republican, and holding a commission for the highest office, except a Judgeship, in the gift of a Republican President, within the limits of his state. It was with natural doubt, therefore, if not, indeed, suspicion, that he was looked

upon by what might be called the Old Line Republicans of the State. They wondered how a man of his previous environments, a man whose people on both sides of his family, and on both sides of his wife's family, for he married a Trenholm, of that State, could really be a Republican in his politics in South Carolina, in view of the feeling of the great majority of his associates, Democratic friends and relatives here. Subsequent events, demonstrated, however, that the would-be critics of Mr. Capers had overlooked the fact that a residence of nearly eight years in Washington with frequent personal and official contact with New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and the Great West had enlarged his views and given him a scope of this country, and this country's needs, beyond the boundaries of the battery in Charleston, or the North Carolina line in the Piedmont section in his State. The death of the Republican National Committeeman, and Mr. Capers appointment in his stead, centered upon him

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Com. Fortune Dined.

He Reviews His Trip to the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands.

Two Races Outside of the Constitution, but Under the Flag—The Wizard of the Colored Press—The Guest a Cultured Set—A Notable Gathering of Leaders Pay Tribute to a Veteran Chieftain.

"There was a sound of revelry by night."

Friday evening, June 26th, a complimentary banquet was tendered to Mr. T. Thos. Fortune, of New York, late commissar to the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands. It took place at Gray's and Costley's cafe, 1313 E St. N. W., and was given by the leading colored men of the country in token of the high regard and esteem in which Mr. Fortune is held. The menu was as follows:

Menu—Little neck clams, olives radishes, Hockheimer; Soup—Bisque clams, sherry; Fish, boiled salmon, trout, cucumbers, new potatoes, claret, filet of beef, green peas, broiled spring chicken, lettuce and tomato salad, Roquefort cheese, coffee, cigars. The caterer and florist and the chef de cuisine gave ample evidence of their art in the admirable menu decorations and gastronomic completeness which marked the occasion. Messrs. Gray and Costley served the affair in their large and most elegantly mirrored and upholstered dining hall. The table was set for forty and was arranged in the letter T. Candelabras graced the table from four points. They were filled with flowers of different hues and varieties, and with the many mirrors and electric lights, the room had the appearance of a banquet in ye olden times. Sprays of ferns ran the length of the festive boards and found an embankment in the huge bouquets of American beauty and Marciel Neil roses, rendering the air redolant with their delicate perfume. Fine linen, cut glass and various displays of silver with accessories that gave a keen edge to the appetite and pleasure to the eye, and induced a feeling of satiety that "mingled with the flowing bowl."

"A feast of reason and a flow of soul."

Possibly a more noted gathering of colored men never joined in an individual and collective capacity to honor a representative man and give expression to the worth, energy, intelligence and pluck that has placed T. Thos. Fortune in the front rank of

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